



St. Louis Audubon Society



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National Audubon Mounts Campaign for Endangered Species Act

Although the Endangered Species Act has weathered three reauthorizations in its 20-year history, the landmark law now faces its stiffest test yet. It has become the center of a contentious debate over whether this country should move forward with species protection or retreat to the days of environmental neglect.

The Act is up for reauthorization in September, but most parties involved in the debate expect the process to extend well into 1993. Competing legislation to strengthen or weaken the act has been introduced in both chambers of Congress.

Most Americans support protection for endangered species. In fact, a recent poll commissioned by Audubon and The Nature Conservancy found that 66 percent of voters support the Endangered Species Act and 40 percent support it "strongly."

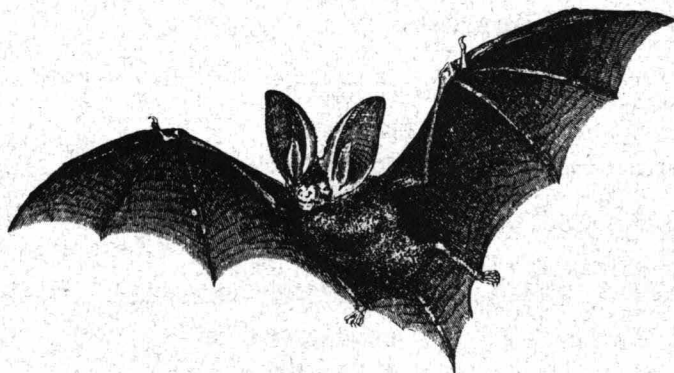
Nearly half (48 percent) say "their sympathies usually lie more with protecting wildlife than with protecting jobs," according to the findings.

Audubon hopes to tap that public goodwill. Unveiling its newest high-priority campaign—to defend and strengthen the Endangered Species Act—Audubon has undertaken the task of converting potentially hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens into ESA activists.

The campaign recently got under way at the Audubon Convention in Washington, D.C. from June 13 to 19. The convention theme, "Act for Wildlife in '92: Endangered Species Need You," was backed up by a host of activities aimed at educating members about the ESA and the political pressures against it.

In addition, Audubon has begun an all-out media and public education crusade on the issue. This campaign includes Project Ark—special community-based environmental study groups in six regions of the country, high-powered ads, and outreach materials.

Individual members can get involved by writing to the Audubon



Activist, National Audubon Society, Box AA, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. Outreach materials include a video on saving endangered species and an endangered species toolkit. You can also sign up to be a part of Audubon's Endangered Species Campaign and receive updates and information on the campaign, free of charge. For more detailed information, contact Cliff Ochs, vice-president for conservation, at 776-7981.

If you are not yet a part of the Audubon Activist network, you may join the more than 100,000 Audubon members who are making a difference for wildlife, wetlands, forests, endangered species, and more. You must be an Audubon member and make a pledge to write at least two letters and make at least two phone calls a year on behalf of environmental issues. Again, contact Audubon Activist through the address listed above.

(Information taken from Audubon Activist, May 1992, from articles by Dan Dagget and Kimberlee McDonald.)

St. Louis Zoo Hosts Endangered Special Day

by Mary Lou Miller

As part of the Endangered Species Act reauthorization campaign, the National Audubon Society and the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums will jointly hold an Endangered Special Day at 17 of 73 United States AAZPA member zoos.

The St. Louis Zoo is one of the 17 zoos, and our St. Louis Audubon Society was a part of this day. We were present at the Living World entrance to the St. Louis Zoo on June 6 from 10 am to 3 pm, distributing information on endangered species and assisting those who wished to contact their representatives regarding House Bill 4045.

This was a great opportunity for the St. Louis Audubon Society to work jointly with the St. Louis Zoo on an issue of mutual concern and importance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Sunday Open House and Programs

Sunday, June 14 — Open House at Education Center from 11 am to end of program. Program at 1:30 pm by Rich Thoma from the WGNSS entomology group will be for "children of all ages." Rich will provide insects and show how they should be mounted and labeled, with help from available field guides. Everyone attending will go home with at least one mounted insect.

Sunday, July 12 — Open House at Education Center from 11 am to 3 pm. Program at 1 pm by Larry Morrison will be a slide show of Missouri summer wildflowers, developed by the Missouri Native Plant Society for the Missouri Botanical Garden Education Dept. These slides and others on spring and fall wildflowers may be borrowed from the Botanical Garden's Resource Center.

Sunday, August 9 — Open House at Education Center from 11 am to 3 pm. Program at 1 pm will feature some of the National Audubon Society videos.

Sunday, September 13 — Open House at Education Center from 11 am to 3 pm. Program at 1 pm by James Traeger of the Arboretum will feature slides and live ant colonies.

Special Events

Thursday, June 25 — "Endangered Species" program by Jim Wilson, MO Conservation Dept., sponsored by the Sierra Club. Program, free and open to the public, is from 8:15 to 9 pm at Litzsinger School, 10094 Litzsinger Rd., in Frontenac.

Thursday, July 23 — "Trails for St. Louisans" program by Dick Vieth, Gateway Trailnet, Inc., sponsored by the Sierra Club. Program, free and open to the public, is from 8:15 to 9 pm at Litzsinger School, 10094 Litzsinger Rd., in Frontenac.

Saturday, August 22 — 25th Annual Operation Clean Stream on the Meramec River. Interested volunteers should contact Jerry Castillon at 391-7586.



Fall Symposiums

September — Green Waste Management, presented late in the second week of September and organized by Ron Darling. This symposium will cover how to have a low maintenance yard and how to become a master composter and will include incites on future trends. A progress report will be given on the new state-wide landfill ban on yard waste, State Law SB 530. Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

Friday, November 13 — A discussion of the Earth Summit Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which occurred June 1-12, 1992. The discussion, hopefully, will be led by people who attended the Summit and will be held at the Powder Valley Nature Center. Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

The Conservation Corner

by Cliff Ochs

With this column I begin a two-year stint as the new vice-president for conservation of the St. Louis Audubon Society. Let me begin by thanking our out-going conservation leader, Ron Darling, for the terrific work he has done in the last year. On top of the education and recreation opportunities that our St. Louis chapter provides for members, we have, under Ron's leadership, made great strides toward becoming more active on the environmental front.

In addition to helping us formulate well informed positions regarding expansion of the Art Museum into Kennedy Forest, the Page Avenue extension, and other issues of local importance, Ron spearheaded our first series of symposiums dedicated to conservation issues. And he is the primary organizer for our next symposium in September that you can read about in this newsletter. Thanks, Ron, for your dedication and energy.

I am hoping to continue and, with the help of our membership, expand our activities on the conservation front. This year is going to be a big one for conservation issues on the local, national, and international level. On the local level, we need to make our voices heard on the Art Museum, Page Avenue, and other developments around St. Louis, which are diminishing our few remaining areas of wildlife habitat.

On the national front, it seems the conservation movement has really taken it in the teeth lately with proposals to weaken wetlands protection and the Endangered Species Act, industrial emissions of pollutants, and removal of part of the northwestern old-growth forest from protection. The big event occurring on the international scale is the Earth Summit in Rio, which will have just concluded by the time this is published.

Just a few words about the Endangered Species Act. The ESA has been instrumental in saving from extinction

the California condor, the spotted owl, the whooping crane, the black-footed ferret, and other animals and plants. But in September 1992, funding for the act expires. Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA) has introduced a bill (H.R. 4045) to reauthorize and strengthen the ESA.

H.R. 4045 will improve the effectiveness of the ESA by (1) helping to insure deadlines for the development of recovery plans for endangered species, (2) promoting conservation of whole ecosystems so that protection is afforded for entire networks of species, (3) making sure that all endangered species are properly listed for protection, (4) enforcing regulations to protect against illegal trade in endangered species, and (5) increasing appropriations for implementation of the ESA provisions.

H.R. 4045 is a strong bill which will substantially improve our ability to protect endangered species. Currently, there are 69 cosponsors to the bill. The National Audubon Society is working hard to see that it is adopted. It is a good time to write your representatives and ask them to cosponsor H.R. 4045, Rep. Studds' Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1992. A letter takes just 15 minutes but will make you feel good for at least an hour.

Landfill Bill Passes Senate

The passage of Senate Bill 829 to keep landfills off the boundaries of state parks was prompted by two applications for solid waste landfill permits smack up against Washington State Park in Washington County. Nearby residents and park supporters throughout the state reacted in horror.

The Department of Natural Resources had no law to deny a landfill just because it threatened the beauty and ecology of a state park. Senator Danny Staples, Eminence, pushed a corrective bill through the Senate. Rep. Wayne Crump introduced a similar bill, and when the Staples bill was cleared by the House Committee on State Parks, chaired by Rep. Jerry

McBride of Phelps County, Crump and colleagues worked it through the House.

It went through conference and as finally agreed to and passed, it would prohibit DNR from permitting a waste disposal facility within one mile of a state park, within one mile of certain areas within the New Madrid seismic zone, or within one mile of any city or county park of 100 acres or larger. In each case, a landfill could be permitted if the governing body of the county or city approved it.

The solid waste industry has been fighting this bill and will try to persuade Governor John Ashcroft to veto it.

We need to let the governor know that SB 829 enjoys widespread public support. Write the governor at State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO 65101 or call his office at (314) 751-3222. The governor has until midnight, July 14, to decide whether to sign or veto bills.

(Article reprinted from Missouri Audubon Council Report, May 22, 1992, by Charlie Callison, Legislative Representative.)



Solar Brigade Needs Your Help

Don't forget the new Audubon campaign called the Solar Brigade, featured in an article in the April newsletter. If you haven't received a brochure with information and instructions yet, contact Cliff Ochs at 776-7981.

The campaign asks people to send monthly messages to their utility companies when they pay their bills that say, "We want 10% solar in 10 years." The Solar Brigade intends to create a national referendum for the safest and cleanest energy available to us—solar.

The steps to follow in this campaign are easy:

1. Insert the message, "We want 10% solar electricity in 10 years," in your monthly electricity bill. You may use the strips provided in the brochure or write the message by hand on a separate piece of paper.
2. Register by filling in the brochure coupon or, if the coupon is missing, by writing Solar Brigade, National Audubon Society, Dept. AB, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. The utilities won't tell us how many people are participating. That's why registration is the key to people power!
3. Tell your friends and neighbors about the Solar Brigade. Remember, word-of-mouth is key to expanding the Solar Brigade. Keep the Solar Brigade address in your wallet or purse, so you can tell people you recruit how to register. Or, give them the registration and 24-hour information telephone number below.
4. Call anytime if you want more information, to hear the latest count on participants, or to become a Solar Brigade leader: (212) 759-6354.



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AUDUBON ADVENTURES



The Education Corner

by Mary Dueren

Education Committee Update

As I take over the awesome responsibilities as vice-president for education, I realize I have some big shoes to fill as Mary Lou Miller steps down. I only hope I can keep up the high standards that Mary Lou has brought to this position.

Our committee will continue trying to achieve the goals outlined in St. Louis Audubon Society's Strategic Plan: to promote environmental education in 1,000 classrooms in the metropolitan area. This is a big goal, and we need more help to achieve this goal.

Help is needed in the form of volunteers—young and young-at-heart, professional and non-professional, and especially the education community. Our committee will be calling upon your help in the future.

WANTED:

Children's nature books in good condition. Please contact Mary Dueren at 576-1473.

Birdathon:

A Novice's Experience

by Mary Dueren

We could not believe the weather forecast: frost, possible snow showers, and cold! This was April 26, and Mary Lou Miller and I were bundled up with layers upon layers of clothes to stay warm. We set out at 7:30 am on that chilly morning with a thermos

of coffee, binoculars, and field guides, resolved to see as much as we could.

Our first stop was Tower Grove Park, where Paul Bauer was leading a bird walk. A group of about 15 people set out to see what was in the park. Despite the cold, we saw quite a few birds, including a scarlet tanager and a rose-breasted grosbeak.

After two hours and a growing list, we headed for Busch Wildlife Area in St. Charles County. As we pulled into the parking lot, a hunter was coming out of the lodge with a turkey over his shoulder. Mary Lou and I asked each other, "Dead or alive—do we count it?" We decided to include the wild turkey; I had never heard whether or not dead or alive mattered. (We will have that issue settled by next year's Birdathon).

Our trek continued farther north after lunch to Marais Temps Claire Wildlife Area, where we added even more to our list: a horned lark, a great blue heron, and others. On our way to the Riverlands Wildlife Area, we spotted some more water fowl in a farmer's pond, and with a lot of searching in our field guides, we came to the conclusion that this was a northern shoveler. I hope that farmer didn't think we were crazy for blocking his driveway while we watched his pond visitor.

The Riverlands gave us our greatest challenge; it took us about 30 minutes to realize we were watching American coots courting in one of the ponds. We just kept looking through the field guides and finally found the coot—not listed with other water fowl (to our exasperation)!

Our list had now surpassed the 50 species mark, but we wanted to see more!! We left the Riverlands area, headed to the Audubon Education Center, and were rewarded with about 7 ad-

ditional species. It was now 5:30 pm, and we were not ready to give up yet. Some of our "inside sources" had informed us that there were black swans at Barnes West County Hospital. Onward!! The swans were probably the most exotic find for our list.

Now it was time to head back to my house. When we pulled in the driveway, our 11-hour Birdathon had covered some 206 miles! AND we were not finished yet! While we warmed up in front of the fireplace, a little cowbird landed under my feeder—the last addition to our list.

The end of our cold day tallied 59 different species and close to \$900 in anticipated donations!! Next year, our sights will be set higher; we already know how much fun we had!

Wild Bird Trade Kills Members of Newly Discovered Species

A bird species previously unknown to science may remain a mystery as a result of international pet trade abuse.

According to a recent report by the Animal Welfare Institute and the Environmental Investigation Agency, two of four birds of the species—believed to be related to the bishop, an African bird—were found dead in an exporter's cage in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The other two died two days later.

Pressure to stop imports of wild-caught birds is on the rise. Sixty airlines, including every U.S. carrier, will no longer ship wild-caught birds. In addition, two states—New York and New Jersey—ban the sale of wild-caught birds. The U.S. House of Representatives Fish and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment Subcommittee currently is considering two bills on the matter, one (H.R. 2540) that would ban imports of all wild-caught exotic species, and another (H.R. 2541) that would call for a 5-year phase out of such imports.

(Article reprinted from the Izaak Walton League Outdoor Ethics newsletter, Spring 1992.)

New Way to Detect Lyme Disease

During the summer months, Lyme disease is of heightened concern. The infection is spread by tick bites in both humans and animals.



Of those infected with Lyme disease, roughly 10 percent develop meningitis, which is an inflammation of the brain or spinal cord. Over a third of Lyme patients may become victims of lesser neurologic disorders.

Lyme disease has in the past been misdiagnosed as multiple sclerosis or other diseases. But a new DNA test designed by a team of medical researchers from several universities may soon lead to more accurate diagnoses.

(Article reprinted from Good Health Digest, June 1992, a publication of the MO Conservation Dept.)

Species Updates

The following is a list of three species that are on the road to recovery, thanks largely to the Endangered Species Act, and three others that still teeter on the brink.

On the Road:

1. Red Wolf. Once extinct in the wild, the red wolf has been reintroduced to eastern North Carolina and in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

2. Black-footed Ferret. Once thought to be extinct, the ferret was reintroduced into the wild in Wyoming last fall.

3. Peregrine Falcon. It has been successfully reintroduced not only in the wild but in many American cities.

On the Brink:

1. Florida Panther. Once ranging throughout the Southeast, only 30 to 50 remain, in southern Florida. Species suffered declines because of habitat loss, accidental road kills, and persecution by humans.

2. Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle. Declined from 42,000 nesting females to about 400 because of beachfront devel-

opment, pollution, and entanglement in shrimp nets.

3. Mexican Gray Wolf. Extinct in the wild in the U.S. and probably Mexico. Fewer than 40 survive in zoos in the U.S.

(Article reprinted from Audubon Activist, May 1992.)

The Ultimate Bird Guide

The "Audubon Backyard Birding" CD-I (Compact Disc Interactive) will be available in local stores late this summer.

Developed by Audubon, Phillips, and Crawford Communications, the disc contains superb photos, descriptions, voices, and animated seasonal range maps of more than 100 North American birds. The disc offers an on-line checklist and tips on landscaping to attract birds. You can even select photographs for a customized slide show.

The disc can be used with a standard CD-I player hooked to your television set or carried into the field with the portable player.

(Article reprinted from NAS Chapter Networker, Spring 1992.)

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Introductory/\$20

☐ Sustaining/\$50

☐ Sr. Citizen Family/\$23

☐ Individual/\$35

☐ Supporting/\$100

☐ Family/\$40

☐ Sr. Citizen/\$21

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Send application to:

Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairman
St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

Make membership checks payable to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
If you wish to make a donation to the local chapter, please write a separate check to:
ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Cliff Ochs	VP-Conservation	776-7981
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Katherine Chambers	Membership	863-9346
Janice Patton	Library	961-1545
Vi Pinkerton	Flowers (condolences, etc.)	394-0953
Nick Staten	Video & Slide Library/Posters	821-5560

Newsletter Information

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Please send any article submissions for the next edition by August 1 to Karen Tylka, 24 Anawood Dr., Arnold, MO 63010 (H# 296-1419).



Our Phone Number

To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call (314) 938-6123.

St. Louis Audubon Society

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